

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PHRMA'S CAMPAIGN TO KILL
MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG
LEGISLATION FOR AMERICA'S
SENIORS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, poll after poll shows the American public strongly supports adding a drug benefit to Medicare. Unfortunately, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America has mounted a silly, sleazy \$20-\$30 million campaign featuring an actress named Flo to oppose comprehensive prescription drug coverage for America's seniors. They use a phony front name, Citizens for Better Medicare.

Perhaps a better name for this campaign-to-deceive-seniors would be: Corporations for Beaucoup Money . . . or Companies for Bundling Money (to trick the public into thinking that the Rx debate is about big government instead of comprehensive Medicare drug coverage) . . . or Corporations for Bigger (Profit) Margins.

PhRMA is apparently convinced that if Congress adds a prescription drug benefit to Medicare, their member companies won't be able to continue pricing drugs at the stratospheric levels many do today. Those pricing strategies are so distorted that Medicare beneficiaries who have no drug insurance are being charged more than twice as much, on average, as prices paid by enrollees of large group health plans. And for the limited number of drugs that Medicare currently covers—generally those administered by physicians—Medicare is being overcharged by billions of dollars. This was made painfully clear in a report issued last year by the HHS Inspector General, which found that Medicare paid \$1 billion more in 1997 than the VA did for the same 34 drugs.

Individual seniors are being harmed by artificially inflated drug prices, too. Last year's stunning 18% growth in drug spending means that fewer elderly people—who need and use pharmaceutical medications more than any other age cohort—will be able to fill the prescriptions their doctors order this year. After all, the median annual income of seniors in this country was about \$21,000 in 1997.

In contrast, the average compensation for CEOs among PhRMA's top 12 companies last year was nearly \$28 million. Stock options for U.S. pharmaceutical pharaohs were worth far more: \$103 million on average in 1998.

Major drug companies also spend billions every year on campaigns to influence which drugs doctors prescribe. This spring, a Florida physician mailed me a sample of the invitations he received from pharmaceutical companies for the week of April 25. Here they are:

Sunday: The doctor and his colleagues are invited to a Niaspan-sponsored Afternoon-at-the-Races event at Tampa Day Downs, which includes use of a private suite, plus an expensive lunch and open bar from noon to 3 p.m.;

Wednesday: The doctor and his colleagues are invited to a Pfizer-sponsored complementary dinner at Landry's Seafood, an upscale restaurant where no entree is under \$25 per person;

Thursday: It's a tough choice: Hoechst Marion Roussel is picking up dinner at Charley's Steak House . . . but across town, Pfizer is paying for dinner at Alfano's;

Friday: What a bonanza! Free tickets for the docs, their spouses and children to watch the Tampa Bay Devil Rays play the Seattle Mariners.

That's not all. "In addition to these free meals," the physician writes, "I have been invited to a second baseball game at Tropicana Field, plus our office has been served three lunches for 25 people this week by the pharmaceutical companies."

In 1998, pharmaceutical companies spent an amazing \$7 billion in these and other promotions designed to influence which drugs doctors prescribe to their patients. Advertising to consumers is climbing too: spending on direct-to-consumer advertising last year rose to \$1.3 billion.

It is important to remember that "Flo" is just another advertising gimmick created by PhRMA. Her ads oppose big government when it comes to discussion of a Medicare drug benefit. What they don't say is that PhRMA vigorously supports big government R&D tax credits, barriers against cheap imports, patent extensions and generous funding of medical research.

The fictitious "Flo" will soon fade from the public's memory. But the plight of real seniors in America who desperately need access to prescription drug coverage will not. It is those seniors we are trying to help by adding a prescription drug benefit to Medicare.

INTRODUCING THE HASS AVOCADO PROMOTION, RESEARCH AND INFORMATION ACT OF 1999

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Hass Avocado Promotion, Research & Information Act of 1999. This legislation will provide California's 6,000 avocado growers—who produce all of the Hass avocados in the United States—with a new self-help mechanism to enhance their national marketing efforts.

The Hass Avocado Promotion Act will allow avocado growers to fund and operate a coordinated marketing effort to expand domestic and foreign markets. The maintenance and expansion of existing markets, and the development of new markets, is critical to preserving and strengthening the economic viability of the domestic Hass avocado industry.

This legislation will not be funded by taxpayer dollars—the bill would simply create a

mechanism for Hass avocado growers to assess themselves. In addition, importers of Hass avocados into the United States would be assessed. Thus, importers would pay their fair share in helping to expand the consumer market that they share with domestic growers. At present, the national marketing of avocados is paid entirely by California avocado growers through assessments collected by the California Avocado Commission. Therefore, this bill offers a win-win proposition for domestic growers and importers to work together to increase the market for avocados and avocado products.

The bill contains an up-front referendum, giving avocado growers a voting process to formally decide whether to implement this new national promotion program. In this referendum, growers and importers will determine whether or not they choose to assess themselves 2.5 cents per pound to fund a national promotion program. The funds generated will be administered by an 11-member Hass Avocado Board that would be comprised of domestic grower and importer representatives.

I am happy to offer this bipartisan legislation, with my colleague from the Agriculture Committee, Representative CONDIT, aimed at helping our Hass avocado producers and importers help themselves.

I ask my colleagues for their support in advancing this vital legislation for Hass avocado growers and California agriculture.

TRIBUTE TO THE CALDWELL-LYON ASSOCIATION OF MISSIONARY BAPTISTS

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Caldwell-Lyon Association of Missionary Baptists, composed of 38 Missionary Baptist churches in Caldwell, Lyon, and Hopkins counties in the First Congressional District of Kentucky.

The Caldwell-Lyon Association of Missionary Baptists will celebrate its 75th Anniversary on September 27, 1999 at the Princeton First Baptist Church where its first meeting was held on September 24, 1924. The mission of the Association is to enliven missions at home base by providing fellowship, mission activities, and support to assist churches in carrying out the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20).

Mr. Speaker, the Caldwell-Lyon Association of Missionary Baptists was organized under the leadership of O.M. Shultz, pastor of the Princeton First Baptist Church, C.B. Barnes, pastor of the Fredonia First Baptist Church, Rudolph Lane, pastor of Walnut Grove Baptist Church, and Reed Rushing, pastor of the Donaldson Baptist Church. During the past 75

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

years, seven pastors have served the Association as missionaries. They are: Gus Marshall, Olen Sisk, Rudolph Lane, Raymond Stovall, George Park, Ralph Tomek, and Harold Greenfield. These individuals and many others have dedicated their lives to furthering the spiritual life of their communities and spreading the message of Christianity throughout the world. Recently, a 12-person team from the Caldwell-Lyon Association joined a 24-member team from Kentucky to spread the gospel of Christ in Mombassa, Kenya.

Mr. Speaker, we are a Nation founded on Christian principles. As President Andrew Jackson so eloquently declared, "The Bible is the Book upon which this Republic rests." It is with pride and admiration that I submit this statement in recognition of the spiritual leadership provided by the Caldwell-Lyon Association of Missionary Baptists on their 75th Anniversary.

MARK SALO: 25 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Salo on his 25th anniversary with Planned Parenthood of San Diego and Riverside Counties in California—the second largest affiliate of Planned Parenthood in the Nation.

Mark has been active in the family planning movement since the late 1960's, beginning as a volunteer counselor with the Seattle-King County, Washington Family Planning Program. He graduated from the University of Washington in 1970 and, since 1974, has served as the president and CEO of Planned Parenthood for San Diego and Riverside Counties. In this capacity, he oversees the management of 15 family planning centers.

Mark and his fellow Planned Parenthood staff members and volunteers are dedicated to providing a complete spectrum of reproductive medical care and educational programs to families in the San Diego and Riverside areas. Through a unique partnership with the Pro Salud family planning organization in Tijuana, 30,000 of our Mexican neighbors are also receiving these services.

Mark Salo is regarded as a national family planning leader and has received recognition for his impact on family planning, both locally and nationally. He was the recipient of the 1989 Ruth Green Award, an award presented by the National Executive Directors Council to an outstanding Planned Parenthood director, chosen for his remarkable record in board development in public affairs, fund raising and planning, and service to Planned Parenthood of America.

His other professional and volunteer activities include serving as a member of the Foundation Committee of Rotary International and of the board of trustees of the Museum of Man in San Diego, treasurer of the San Diego AIDS Project, and a graduate of L.E.A.D. of San Diego, which trains a select group of the

leaders of our city's volunteer and nonprofit organizations.

Mark has said that his family did not believe in government intrusion in private life. "We believed firmly that people are fit to make moral decisions independent of government interference." His life and work with Planned Parenthood have put his words into action.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Mark Salo on the 25th anniversary of his service to Planned Parenthood and to the greater San Diego and Riverside communities. I want to recognize his dedication to the fundamental right of each individual to voluntary reproductive self-determination and his belief that such self-determination will enhance the quality of life, family relations, and population stability.

RECOGNIZING VIE-DEL COMPANY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vie-Del Company and Dianne S. Nury CEO/President of the company for their success in the grape product industry. Vie-Del is located in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley and is a family owned business. It is one of the oldest and has been consistently among the largest suppliers of grape products to the wine, spirits, food and beverage industries.

Vie-Del Company was founded on August 6, 1946 as a winery, distillery and fruit juice processor. Vie-Del is a major producer of wine, brandy, grape juice concentrates and a variety of other fruit products for bulk sale to the wine, spirits, food and beverage industries. Vie-Del produces only in bulk, with no labeled/retail products. Vie-Del operates two facilities, one located in Fresno and the other in Kingsburg. The total cooperage is approximately 50 million gallons. The warehouse facilities incorporate approximately 350,000 square feet in the Fresno plant alone.

Vie-Del's concern for quality and service has grown the company to the level it is at today. They work closely with their customers in meeting product needs.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Vie-Del Company on their achievement as an established supplier of grape products to different industries. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Vie-Del Company many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE RONALD W. TOCHTERMAN

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Judge Ronald W. Tochtermann. He is retiring as judge of the Superior Court in Sacramento, CA. As Judge Tochtermann is honored by his many friends and associates, I ask all of my

colleagues to join with me in saluting his remarkable career.

Judge Tochtermann was born April 27, 1938. An avid reader and sports enthusiast, he also enjoys teaching night law classes. He and his wife Linda have been married for 38 years, have two adult sons, Joel and Jeffery, and two grandchildren, Isabella and Leo.

After receiving his bachelor of arts degree in general curriculum from the University of California, Berkeley in June, 1959, he went on to receive a L.L.B. from U.C. Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law. Here, he was a recipient of the Bancroft-Whitney Prize for Excellence in Evidence.

Before coming to the bench, from May 1967 to October 1979, Judge Tochtermann served in the capacity of Deputy District Attorney, Supervising Deputy District Attorney, and Assistant Chief Deputy District Attorney for Sacramento County. In 1979, the California District Attorneys' Association named him "Prosecutor of the Year". Prior to that, he spent 1 year in private law practice with Friedman & Collard, 2 years as a Law Clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Thomas J. McBride, and 1 year as Deputy Legislative Counsel with the State of California.

Judge Tochtermann has been on the faculty of the California Center for Judicial Education and Research since 1985 and the California Judicial College in Berkeley from 1981–1984. He has been an Adjunct Professor in "Advanced Criminal Procedure" since 1986 and an Instructor at University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, and Lincoln University Law School. He has lectured at the University of California, Davis, School of Law and worked as an instructor for the Sacramento Police Academy.

In addition to his achievements as a lawyer and professor, Judge Tochtermann has authored several papers and articles. His works include several articles regarding the insanity defense and the role of psychiatrists in criminal cases. Several of his other articles focus on prosecution ethics, search and seizure, discovery, grand jury, plea-bargaining, death penalty, and psychiatric defenses and are published in various prosecution journals.

He is also a member of several prestigious organizations including the California Judges Association, and the Sacramento County Bar Association's Criminal Law Committee and Committee on Liaison with the Judiciary. Several of his former memberships include the California District Attorneys' Association, California State Bar's Committee on Criminal Law and Procedure, and Attorney's Ad Hoc Committee to Support California Rural Legal Assistance.

On a more personal note, he is an active member of our community as a member of the Board of Directors for the Jewish Federation of Sacramento, WEAVE, Inc., and Stanford Settlement, Inc. He is also in the Advisory Committee for the Curbstone Youth Service Center.

Mr. Speaker, as Judge Ronald Tochtermann is honored by his many friends and colleagues, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most outstanding citizens. His devotion to the law and tireless contributions to the Sacramento area are commendable. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing him continued success in all his future endeavors.